

Appln No. 10/789,218
Amdt date May 2, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 2, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20-36 were previously pending in the application, of which claims 21-27, 32, 33 and 36 were withdrawn. Claims 20, 28-31, 34 and 35 have been cancelled. Claim 37 has been added. Therefore, claims 21-27, 32, 33, 36 and 37 are currently pending, of which claims 21-27, 32, 33 and 36 are withdrawn.

The abstract of the disclosure has been objected to for exceeding the required word length. Applicants have amended the abstract to meet the required word length. Thus, the objection to the abstract should be withdrawn. A replacement sheet of the Abstract is enclosed.

Claims 20, 28, 29, 30 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobrick (U.S. 1,586,397) in view of Davies (U.S. 4,606,085). Claims 28, 29 and 34 have been cancelled. Applicants have cancelled these claims.

Claim 31 has been rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobrick in view of Davies and further in view of Knibb (U.S. 3,078,471). Claim 31 has been cancelled.

Claim 35 has been rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobrick in view of Davies and Ramacier, Jr. et al. (U.S. 5,494,074). Applicants have cancelled claim 35.

Applicants have added claim 37, which recites, in part, at least one liquid dispenser having a manually operable positive displacement pump coupled in proximity to the liquid dispense to permit a user to actuate the pump to dispense soap or lotion from a dispenser outlet into the user's hand, a collapsible fluid container located at an elevation lower than the elevation of the at least one liquid dispenser, at least one line coupling including a first flexible tube and a second flexible tube, and a connecting link adaptor having a first portion and a second portion matable to the first portion, the first portion configured to couple to the first flexible tube and the second portion configured to couple to the second flexible tube.

Claim 37 further recites that the first portion includes a valve actuated by connecting and disconnecting the first portion to the second portion, so that the liquid flows from the collapsible fluid container to the second flexible tube when the first portion is connected to the second portion, and liquid is prevented from flowing from the collapsible fluid container, via the first

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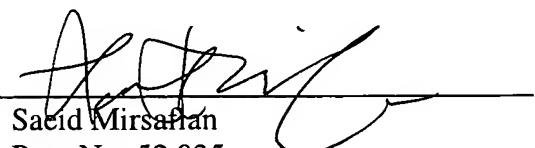
portion, when the first portion is disconnected from the second portion, and the second portion includes a valve that is actuated by connecting and disconnecting the first portion to the second portion, whereby liquid is permitted to flow from the collapsible fluid container to the second flexible tube when the first portion is connected to the second portion, and liquid is prevented from flowing out of the second tube, via the second portion, when the first portion is disconnected from the second portion.

Applicants believe that claim 37 is patentable over any one or a combination of Bobrick, Davies, Knibb and Ramacier Jr. et al.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request a timely indication of allowance. Should there be any further issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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SM/bl

Attachment: An appendix including amended Abstract

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